

Message Text

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42

ACTION SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3845

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 4207

BEIRUT FOR RSS AND RTC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, APER

SUBJ: SEABEE MATTERS

REF: STATE 240003

1. RE PARA 5 REFTEL: RSO IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT BUC WELLMAN EXCELLENT CANDIDATE TO ASSIST IN INITATING A NEW RTC IN TEHRAN. HOWEVER, RSO WISHES DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER TRANSFER OF SEABEE POSITION TO TEHRAN.

2. RSO BELIEVES SEABEE PROGRAM AND STATE DEPARTMENT INTERESTES CAN BEST BE FULFILLED BY RETAINING THE SEABEE POSITION IN KUWAIT AND EXPANDING THE PRESENT TERRITORY TO INCLUDE SAUDIA ARABIA, YEMEN, IRAQ AND POSSIBLY ISFAHAN AND SHIRAZ, IRAN. IN PRIOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF A/SY/FO, NSU AND RSS'S BEIRUT IT HAS BEENPOINTED OUT THAT KUWAIT OFFERS A KEY TRANSIT POINT TO THE GULF POSTS ANDTHOSE IN SAUDI ARABIA AND YEMEN. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT FLIGHTS TO ISFAHAN AND SHIRAZ, IRAN ARE DAILY WITH TRAVEL TIME BEING APPROXIMATELY ONE TO ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS. BASED ON EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT SEABEE POSITION KUWAIT, RSO FEELS RESPONSE TO AREAS MENTIONED ABOVE COULD BEST BE SERVED FROM A POSITION IN KUWAIT RATHER THAN ONE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF AN RTC.

3. IF AFTER RECONSIDERATION, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES PROPOSED PLAN
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REFTEL POTENTIALLY MORE PRODUCTIVE THAT RECOMMENDATION PARA 2,

POST REQUESTS BUC WELLMAN REMAIN KUWAIT UNTIL REGULAR ETD MAY 1976. KUWAIT HAS SEVERAL PROJECTS OUTSTANDING-ONE OF WHICH IS INSTALLATION OF NEW EMERGENCY GENERATORS. THIS PROJECT ALONE WILL REQUIRE SEABEE ASSISTANCE OF UP TO 60 DAYS OR MORE.

4. RE PARA 7 REFTTEL: PER CONSULTATION WITH BUC WELLMAN, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE ADVISED WIFE WILL NOT RPT WILL NOT ACCOMPANY WELLMAN TO TEHRAN. IF BUC WELLMAN IS TRANSFERRED MRS. WELLMAN PLANS TO RETURN TO HER PERMANENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE PENDING TERMINATION OF BUC WELLMAN'S DUTY WITH SEABEE DETACHMENT.
STOLTZFUS

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